

Amended Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 through 21 (cancelled)

22.(currently amended) Carpet installation apparatus for use in installing a carpet tack strip having partially exposed nails protruding therefrom on a support surface adjacent a substantially vertical surface, comprising:

a body comprising a longitudinal reference axis, a lower end, and an upper end longitudinally(axially) spaced from the lower end, and a longitudinally (axially) oriented body aperture extending through the body, along said reference axis and between the lower and upper ends of said body, said body aperture having lower and upper portions corresponding to the lower and upper ends of the body, wherein said lower body aperture portion includes a carpet tack nail accommodating portion disposed adjacent said lower end of said body, said carpet tack nail accommodating portion adapted to closely receive the protruding nail of the carpet tack strip;

a striker pin disposed in the longitudinal body aperture, reciprocally moveable along said reference axis and relative to said body, wherein said striker pin comprises a shaft, an upper part of which is disposed within at least the ~~second~~ upper portion of said body aperture, and a strikable impact head interconnected with said upper part of said shaft, said shaft extending ~~throughbeyond~~ said body aperture to a lower part disposed in the lower portion of said body aperture adjacent the carpet tack nail accommodating portion; and

a tack strip track assembly disposed adjacent the lower end of said body, and comprising a horizontally disposed foot plate having a base portion for engaging the support surface, the base portion having disposed therein a carpet tack strip accommodating guide channel into which said carpet tack nail accommodating portion opens, said channel being disposed generally parallel to the vertical surface adjacent which the tack strip is to be installed, the base portion including a spacer portion disposed adjacent the channel and extending laterally a predetermined distance therefrom in respect of said carpet tack nail accommodating portion, to an extent terminating in an outer planar surface generally parallel to the guide channel for engaging the

vertical surface and laterally spacing the track assembly and body therefrom by means of receiving the protruding nail into the carpet tack nail accommodating portion, wherein the predetermined distance between the carpet tack nail accommodating portion and the outer planar surface of the track assembly is such as to position the carpet tack strip in the preferred nailing position with respect to the vertical surface;

whereby said track assembly is oriented with the body aperture such that the carpet tack strip is engaged by the installing apparatus by means of the protruding nail of said carpet tack being received in the carpet tack nail accommodating portion for enabling the positioning of the tack strip by moving the installation apparatus whereafter impacting the striking head, driving the striking pin reciprocates to transit the carpet tack nail accommodating portion through the guide channel, striking the protruding nail driving the carpet tack into the support surface.

23.(currently amended) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising a shock-absorbing body extension of resilient material mounted on the upper end of said body, wherein said body extension is coaxial with the longitudinal reference axis and continuous with the body to a terminal end, the shock-absorbing~~rubber~~ body extension having a longitudinal aperture through which said striker pin extends.

24.(previously added) The apparatus of claim 23 further comprising a striker retaining washer disposed in the terminal end of the body extension, coaxially of the longitudinal axis, for retaining the striker pin.

25.(previously added) The apparatus of claim 24 further comprising a coiled spring disposed about the shaft of the striker pin, intermediate said washer and the striker pin head.

26.(previously added) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising a handle connected to the body intermediate the lower and upper ends thereof, extending substantially perpendicularly outwardly from the body.

27.(previously added) The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising a handle extension comprised of a shock absorbing resilient material, disposed outwardly and substantially

continuously with said handle.

28.(previously added) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said handle extension terminates in a balancing foot for user contact during operation of the apparatus.